

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montour  
East side of S. Walnut Street  
Montour  
Gem County  
Idaho

HABS No. ID-36

HABS  
ID,  
23-MONT,  
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS

ID,

23-MONT,

6-

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

## METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF MONTOUR

Location: East side of South Walnut street  
Montour, Gem County, Idaho  
UTM: 11/554125/4863175

Present Owner: United States Department of the Interior

Present Occupant: Unoccupied

Present Use: Unused

Statement of Significance: The church is an example of the simplest vernacular adaptation of the bungalow style.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Date of erection: 1916

Builder and Architect: Unknown

Historical Narrative:

The cornerstone of this church was laid 5 November, 1916, on land provided by E.H.Dewey. The first account of the church described the planned edifice as a \$1,500 "bungalow style," with a seating capacity of 200 and dimensions of 22 feet by 44 feet. These dimensions were later reported to be 30 feet by 40 feet. The church was named "Barrett Chapel," in honor of the Reverend Richard Barrett who had been an early Methodist minister in Emmett. The first services were held in April, 1917, although the interior was yet unfinished. The church was not fully completed until the late fall of 1917.

Bibliography:

Emmett Index: 7 Sept. 1916, 1:5; 2 November 1916, 8:3-4;  
26 April 1917, 1:5; 15 November 1917, 8:5.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATIONGeneral statement

1. Architectural interest and merit: The church is an example of the simplest vernacular adaptation of the bungalow style.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor - the base of the east wall and adjoining portion of the north wall is rotten and the exterior wall covering is coming detached there.
3. Summary description: One story, 46'-6" x 32'-6", rectangular plan (including both front and back porches).

Detailed description of exterior

1. Foundations: These are concrete with river-gravel aggregate visible. At the north corner of the front is a stone inscribed: "Methodist Episcopal Church 1916." This stone is 10 inches by 41 inches in plan and 16 inches or more high and appears to be the local dark sandstone. The stone is damaged at the T of the inscription and patched with cement. The foundation varies in height from 6 to 16 inches and is in good condition.
2. Wall construction: The wall overhangs the foundation 3 inches. At the base of the wall is a 9-inch-wide wooden beltcourse including a capping watertable molding. The wall is covered with clapboards painted white, with from 2¼ to 2½ inches exposed. The actual board widths are more than double what they appear, because each board is milled to look like two clapboards. The corner trim is 5 inches wide.
3. Structural System: Clapboard nailing at 16 inches on center indicates stud wall construction. The roof spans the width of the building without intermediate supports.
4. Porches, etc.: A concrete stoop with four steps and a pipe handrail provides access to the front entrance door, but the south door just around the building corner from this has no stoop nor steps. The rear door has steps of 2-inch-thick wood. Projecting shed roofs on triangular wooden brackets shelter the two doorways near the front.
5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys are placed at diagonally opposite locations: one near the southwest corner and one near the northwest corner. They are supported on brackets to the walls inside the building and are in fair condition.
6. Openings, doorways and doors: Door trim is plain boards 5 inches wide. The doors have an exterior covering of vertical tongue-and-groove softwood, not original it appears, and an inner covering of softwood plywood, not original either. The front door has two leaves; the other doors are single-leaf doors. Each leaf has three small

rectangular windows of beveled plate glass, each successively lower than the next.

7. Openings, windows: The windows are 1/1 wooden sash glazed at the tower with clear glass and elsewhere with obscure glass, resembling the markings in hammered metalwork at the front windows, and having a somewhat floral pattern elsewhere. The frames are similar to the door frames.
8. Roof, shape, covering: The church has a hip roof, as does the tower. The hips and the ridge have a metal cover piece of galvanized steel, plain at the ridge, and at the hips shaped to resemble lapping shingles.
9. Roof, eaves: Projecting rafters form the eaves. The exposed roof boards form the soffit.
10. Roof, tower: A tower forms the southwest corner of the church, serving at the first floor as an entrance vestibule and having a windowed room above accessible through a trap door in the ceiling of the vestibule.

#### Detailed description of interior

1. Floor plan: The church consists of one large room accessible through an entrance vestibule. At the north side of the large room is a platform raised two steps, and this projects at the north side of the building in a squared bay window. There is also a small projection at the east end of the south wall, as though to balance the tower at the west end of this wall.
2. Stairways: None.
3. Flooring: Softwood matchboards exposed 3¼ inches is used throughout, stained dark brown and given a glossy finish.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls are plaster on wood lath and are painted pink. The vestibule ceiling is also plaster. The ceiling of the large room is flat at the center and at its perimeter slopes downward from two to three feet, following the shape of the roof. Narrow vee-grooved matchboards cover the flat and sloping portions of the ceiling. Around the main room there is a wainscot of vertical vee-grooved matchboards with 3¼-inch exposure. This wainscot is used also in the vestibule, where in addition there are narrow coat hook strips fastened to the wall and large nails used as coat hooks. The wainscot is stained to match the floor.
5. Doorways and doors: The door between vestibule and main room is a double-leafed, five-panel door. Door and window

trim is plain, of wood, finished to match the floor.

6. Trim: The chancel rail is 14 inches high and there is a 2½-inch-high step in front of the platform and rail, both extending the full width of the platform. The steps to the platform are at each side. There are very light-weight, movable partitions hinged to the walls at the sides of the chancel, apparently to close off the corners of the room at times.
7. Hardware: None of note.
8. Mechanical and electrical equipment: There are suspended electric fixtures - three unmatched pairs of diffuser globes. Stoves at the two chimneys heated the church. There is no plumbing in the church.

#### Site and surroundings

1. Orientation and general setting: The church faces west toward the street. The land is flat.
2. Historic landscape design: None
3. Outbuildings: There are four outbuildings.
  1. A rectangular, gable-roofed structure with drop-siding walls and heated with a liquified-petroleum gas stove. This is to the south.
  2. A pump house, with drop-siding walls and a water tap outside. This is in back of the church.
  3. A woodshed with unpainted vertical wood board walls including a privy at one end. This is farther behind the church.
  4. A small privy of unpainted boards, also at the rear behind the church.

#### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by Dennett, Muessig & Associates, Iowa City, Iowa, in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region. It fulfills the Bureau of Reclamation's obligations under a memorandum of agreement between the Bureau, the State of Idaho, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR 800. The structure was photographed, measured and drawn March - September, 1979, by Sarah J. Dennett and Hans Muessig, Project Supervisors; Wesley I. Shank, Project Architectural Historian/Historical Architect, (Iowa State University); Martha H. Bowers, Project Historian; Robert A. Ryan, Project Photographer; and Philipp Muessig, Project Assistant.

APPENDIX

CHAIN OF TITLE: METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF MONTOUR

Description: Lots 10-15, Block 9, T7N R1E, Boise Meridian

Reference: Recorder's Office, Gem County Courthouse, Emmett, Idaho

Lot 10

- 1912 Deed 1 October 1912  
Recorded 10 October 1912  
Book A. Deeds, p. 191  
E. H. Dewey, Trustee, E. H. Dewey & S. N. Dewey  
to  
Nellie Ireton
- 1912 Deed 1 October 1912  
Recorded 3 December 1912  
Book A. Deeds, p. 138  
E. H. Dewey, Trustee, E. H. Dewey & S. N. Dewey  
to  
Nellie Ireton
- 1937 Deed 13 July 1937  
Recorded 15 September 1937  
Book 24 Deeds, p. 137  
Nellie Ireton Mills  
to  
The Methodist Episcopal Church of Montour
- 1953 Corporate Quit Claim Deed 23 October 1953  
Recorded 23 October 1953  
Deed Instrument #72382  
Dewey Investment Co.  
to  
Idaho Annual Conference of the Methodist Church
- 1978 Quit Claim Deed 26 May 1978  
Recorded 21 June 1978  
Deed Instrument #124688  
Oregon - Idaho Annual Conference of the United  
Methodist Church  
to  
Intermountain District Advisory Board of the Church  
of the Nazarene

Continued - Chain of Title for the Methodist Episcopal Church of  
Montour .

- 1978 Deed 12 June 1978  
Recorded 21 June 1978  
Deed Instrument #124689  
Intermountain District Advisory Board of the Church  
of the Nazarene  
to  
U. S. A.
- Lot 11
- 1922 Deed 9 January 1922  
Recorded 8 February 1922  
Book 14 Deeds, p. 504  
Dewey Investment Co.  
to  
James Scott
- 1935 Deed 12 February 1935  
Recorded 15 September 1937  
Book 24 Deeds, p. 138  
James Scott & Phoebe Jane Scott  
to  
Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Montour
- 1953 Corporate Quit Claim Deed 23 October 1953  
Recorded 23 October 1953  
Deed Instrument #72382  
Dewey Investment Co.  
to  
Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
- 1978 Quit Claim Deed 26 May 1978  
Recorded 21 June 1978  
Deed Instrument #124688  
Oregon - Idaho Annual Conference of the United  
Methodist Church  
to  
Intermountain District Advisory Board of the Church  
of the Nazarene
- 1978 Deed 12 June 1978  
Recorded 21 June 1978  
Deed Instrument #124689  
Intermountain District Advisory Board of the Church  
of the Nazarene  
to  
U. S. A.

Continued - Chain of Title for the Methodist Episcopal Church  
of Montour - 3

Lots 14 & 15

- 1932 Quit Claim Deed 18 April 1932  
Recorded 25 April 1932  
Book 20 Deeds, p. 261  
Gem County (auction)  
to  
Otto Kirchner
- 1935 Quit Claim Deed 12 February 1935  
Recorded 15 September 1937  
Book 24 Deeds, p. 137  
Otto A. Kirchner & Lillie Kirchner  
to  
Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Montour
- 1953 Corporate Quit Claim Deed 23 October 1953  
Recorded 23 October 1953  
Deed Instrument #72382  
Dewey Investment Co.  
to  
Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
- 1978 Quit Claim Deed 26 May 1978  
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Oregon - Idaho Annual Conference of the United  
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to  
Intermountain District Advisory Board of the  
Church of the Nazarene
- 1978 Deed 12 June 1978  
Recorded 21 June 1978  
Deed Instrument #124689  
Intermountain District Advisory Board of the Church  
of the Nazarene  
to  
U. S. A.